

Claims

1           1.     A method for enhancing the efficacy of a therapeutic treatment  
2     for cancer in a patient, said therapeutic treatment being selected from the group  
3     consisting of: chemotherapy, radiation therapy, surgery, and combinations  
4     thereof, said method comprising the steps of:

5                 administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of a  
6     compound which binds to a galectin; and

7                 administering said therapeutic treatment to said patient.

1           2.     The method of claim 1, wherein said galectin is present on the  
2     cell surface of a tissue of said patient.

1           3.     The method of claim 1, wherein said compound binds to  
2     galectin-1 or galectin-3.

1           4.     The method of claim 1, wherein said compound comprises a  
2     polymeric backbone having side chains dependent therefrom, said side chains  
3     being terminated by a galactose or arabinose unit.

1           5.     The method of claim 1, wherein said compound comprises a  
2     substantially demethoxylated polygalacturonic acid which is interrupted with  
3     rhamnose residues.

1           6.     The method of claim 1, wherein said compound comprises a  
2     carbohydrate.

1           7.     The method of claim 6, wherein said carbohydrate comprises a  
2     branched carbohydrate.

1           8.     The method of claim 1, wherein said compound comprises a  
2     modified pectin.

1           9.     The method of claim 8, wherein said modified pectin comprises  
2     a pH modified pectin.

1           10.    The method of claim 9, wherein said modified pectin comprises  
2     an enzymatically modified pectin.

1           11.    The method of claim 8, wherein said modified pectin comprises  
2     a thermally modified pectin.

1           12.    The method of claim 8, wherein said modified pectin comprises  
2     a modified citrus pectin.

1           13.    The method of claim 1, wherein said compound has a molecular  
2     weight of at least 300 dalton.

1           14.    The method of claim 1, wherein said compound has a molecular  
2           weight in the range of 300-2,000 dalton.

1           15.    The method of claim 8, wherein said modified pectin has a  
2           molecular weight in the range of 1-50 kilodalton.

1           16.    The method of claim 8, wherein said modified pectin has a  
2           molecular weight in the range of 1-15 kilodalton.

1           17.    The method of claim 8, wherein said modified pectin has a  
2           molecular weight of approximately 10 kilodalton.

1           18.    The method of claim 1, wherein said step of administering said  
2           compound to said patient comprises injecting said compound into said patient.

1           19.    The method of claim 1, wherein said step of administering said  
2           compound to said patient comprises orally administering said compound to  
3           said patient.

1           20.    The method of claim 1, wherein said step of administering said  
2           compound to said patient comprises administering said compound prior to  
3           administering said therapeutic treatment to said patient.

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1           21.    The method of claim 1, wherein said step of administering said  
2    compound to said patient comprises administering said compound to said  
3    patient after said therapeutic treatment is administered to said patient.

1           22.    The method of claim 1, wherein said compound is administered  
2    concomitant with said therapeutic treatment.